

GIDEON: MIGHTY MAN OF VALOR

Judges 6

Judges 6:1 Thirteen times Israel fell into sin

Thirteen times God brought judgment on them

Deut 28: God warned them -- Obedience brings blessings, disobedience brings conflict.

Israel in land of Canaan.

God told them to drive out inhabitants and claim land.

Some had and some had

Judges 2:3,10

Midianites and Amalekites: two of most terrible and consistent enemies of Israel.

Israelites hiding in dens, caves and strongholds.

Judges 6:2-6 ...*came as grasshoppers for multitude*; chaotic fashion...swarm to plunder country.

Judges 6:6 ...*Israel cried unto the LORD*.

Judges 6:7 Seven years crying out to Baal..without receiving help.

End of themselves--call upon God.

Lawrence: You never have to feel bad about turning to Him, no matter what sin you've committed, because He is always ready to forgive the truly repentant soul. Nor does He call back a record of your past sins that have been forgiven and covered by the blood of Jesus. You can always come back to the Father.

Judges 6:8-Not God's fault!

The truth is – You disobeyed!

Lawrence: We tend to forget that we cannot sow weeds and then pray for a good harvest. When we sow rubbish, we're going to harvest rubbish. Want a good harvest? Then sow good seed.

Galatians 6:7-8

Judges 6:11 *Angel of the Lord*: preincarnate Christ.

Joash: of half tribe of Manasseh...in Canaan, of family of Abiezer.

Oldest house of tribe.

Gideon: *a cutting down; he that bruises; great warrior*.

Amalekites & Midianites: desert nomads. Bedouins.

Wait for Israel's crops to grow

Steal crops and leave Israel helpless.

Usual place for threshing wheat--open, leveled area near field where wheat grown.

Wine press a long distance away ...shallow hollow in ground,

No one expect threshing of wheat.

Judges 6:12 Matt Hen: *Gideon was a man of a brave active spirit and yet buried alive in obscurity through the iniquity of the times.*

Whyte: *Gideon thought that the angel of the Lord was mocking at him ... Call me not a mighty man of valor, Call me a God-forsaken coward!*

Why Jesus call him a mighty man of valor?

God sees differently than we do!

Sees the whole.

Lawrence: *In fact, God saw our potential before you became a Christian, even before you were born. And God builds all the circumstances of your life based on what He sees as the potential in your life...*

Judges 6:13 Lord, Master! If Lord with us then why all this happened?

Where are great and mighty miracles our fathers told us about?

Brother Lawrence: *If things aren't the way they should be, ask God why.... we can't live on promise boxes. We need to discover the truth.*

...I need miracles in my own life...Where are those miracles if the Lord is with us?

Rice:

*Brethren, we have met to worship
And adore the Lord our God:
Will you pray with all your power,
While we try to preach the Word?
All is vain unless the Spirit
Of the Holy One comes down:
Brethren, pray, and holy manna
Will be showered all around.*

Judges 6:14 You've been using your strength and might and energy to thresh wheat.

Go, and use your strength for a better purpose.

Judges 6:15 How can I possibly save/deliver Israel? Look at my family.

Mt Hen: *God often chooses to do great things by those that are little, especially that are so in their own eyes. God delights to advance the humble.*

Isaiah 66:2; 1 Corinthians 1:26-29

Key to God using us? Realize 1. We can't do it 2. God can do it.

Why God choose Gideon?

1. Their need – people cried unto the Lord.
2. Attitude – Humble
3. His needs – miracles
4. His boldness
5. His reverence